

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 16, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

WCP  
Rural Health  
269

Dear Chairman Genachowski:


We write to you regarding the success of Oregon's Health Network (OHN) - the first statewide broadband telehealth network currently serving health care providers and health care education providers across the state and funded in large part by the Rural Health Care Pilot Program (the "Pilot Program") launched by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2007. As the fifth largest recipient of the Pilot Program, OHN has made remarkable progress towards its original goal of connecting 200 eligible health care facilities around Oregon.

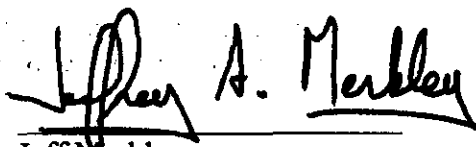
The positive impact the Pilot Program has had on Oregon is evidenced by enhanced access to higher quality health care and increased economic opportunities for rural parts of the state. Infrastructure investment in quality broadband availability, reliability, use and access to health care and health care education is paramount in driving primary care physicians to underserved areas in Oregon. The broadband infrastructure funded by the Pilot Program in these rural communities provides benefits to businesses and families in Oregon's rural communities as they gain access to new or increased broadband capacity.

In light of these demonstrable benefits and OHN's success in deploying its original \$20 million Pilot Program award, we believe it critical that the FCC maintain the project's momentum in order to fulfill our state's goals to deploy quality health care to the rural parts of the state. We understand the FCC currently maintains significant unobligated funds for the Pilot Program, and that OHN is requesting \$46.2 million in additional program funding of these unused funds. These additional funds will work to sustain the recurring costs to OHN's member health care providers, increase the amount of bandwidth of their network to address Electronic Health Records mandates, and add an additional 100 eligible health care providers to their network.

OHN has demonstrated it can accomplish these goals through its effective deployment of the Pilot program to date. OHN's proven track record makes it a leader worthy of continued investment. We therefore urge the FCC to give serious consideration to OHN's recent requests for additional Pilot Program funding.

Sincerely,

  
Ron Wyden  
U.S. Senator

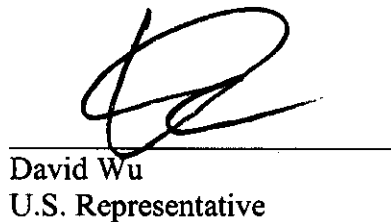
  
Jeff Merkley  
U.S. Senator

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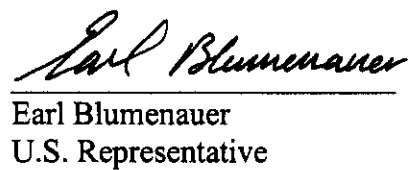
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Peter DeFazio  
U.S. Representative



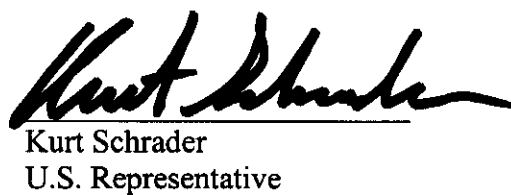
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David Wu  
U.S. Representative



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Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. Representative



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Kurt Schrader  
U.S. Representative

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

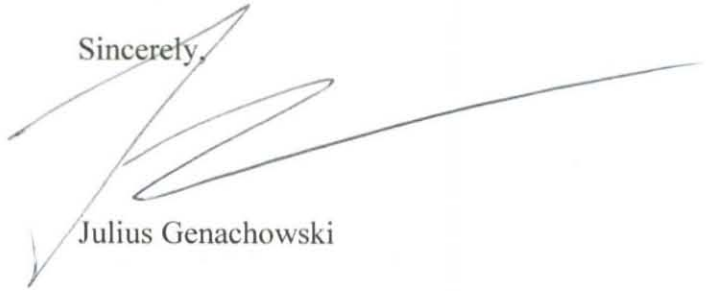
Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter supporting a petition filed by the Oregon Health Network (OHN). The petition requests that the Commission provide additional support for OHN's universal service Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and I will ensure that your letter is placed in the record of the OHN petition proceeding.

The Commission is committed to the goal of providing the important benefits of the Rural Health Care Pilot Program to eligible health care providers. The OHN petition is under review. The Commission is working to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible, giving full consideration to all of the comments received.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your letter supporting a petition filed by the Oregon Health Network (OHN). The petition requests that the Commission provide additional support for OHN's universal service Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and I will ensure that your letter is placed in the record of the OHN petition proceeding.

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Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
United States Senate  
107 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Merkley:

Thank you for your letter supporting a petition filed by the Oregon Health Network (OHN). The petition requests that the Commission provide additional support for OHN's universal service Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and I will ensure that your letter is placed in the record of the OHN petition proceeding.

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Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Kurt Schrader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
314 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader:

Thank you for your letter supporting a petition filed by the Oregon Health Network (OHN). The petition requests that the Commission provide additional support for OHN's universal service Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and I will ensure that your letter is placed in the record of the OHN petition proceeding.

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Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable David Wu  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2338 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wu:

Thank you for your letter supporting a petition filed by the Oregon Health Network (OHN). The petition requests that the Commission provide additional support for OHN's universal service Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and I will ensure that your letter is placed in the record of the OHN petition proceeding.

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Sincerely,

  
Julius Genachowski



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

May 17, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter supporting a petition filed by the Oregon Health Network (OHN). The petition requests that the Commission provide additional support for OHN's universal service Rural Health Care Pilot Program. I appreciate your bringing this to my attention and I will ensure that your letter is placed in the record of the OHN petition proceeding.

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Julius Genachowski